

COMPOSER OF "THE MERRY WIDOW" TELLS OF NEW OPERETTAS

Lehar Looks Forward to Next Production in America

Creator of 'The Merry Widow'
Talks of 'Blue Mazur' and
'The Yellow Jacket.'

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

VIENNA, Oct. 7. **F**RANZ LEHAR, king of the Austrian operetta, is both the busiest and the most charming of Austria's contemporary composers. When the correspondent of THE NEW YORK HERALD called at his lavishly furnished and decorated apartment at 16 Theobaldgasse on the verge of the city of Vienna he was at once admitted to the sanctuary and received with a youthful and cordial handshake. Mr. Lehar, who is now 52, but could pass for anything between 30 and 40 if there were not the gray hair and a close cut white mustache, has not forgotten the reception his "Merry Widow" got in the United States. He likes to chat over his experiences with America and his numerous American friends and admirers. He regards Henry W. Savage not only as one of the cleverest stage producers on the other side of the ocean, but also as a person dear to his heart.



FRANZ LEHAR.

Talking with Lehar over his art and opinions in the unconventional way

New York Will See German Play of Forty-two Scenes

Lotus Robb to Have Leading Role in 'The Marvelous Adventures of Conductor Kreisler—Theatrical and Musical Activities in Berlin.

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Berlin, Oct. 7. **M**ISS LOTUS Robb, a young American actress who has been in Berlin studying the German presentation of "The Marvelous Adventures of Conductor Kreisler," has now returned to the United States. She will be cast for the triple role of *Julia*, *Euphemia* and *Donna Anna*, when this hybrid work, half drama and half moving picture, has its New York premiere during the coming season. The fantastic creation is from the pen of E. T. R. Hohmann, the Edgar Allan Poe of German literature.

tober. Of pianists there will be a score of Americans heard, Walter Rummel and Henri Deering being among the leading ones. Among the singers will be Mme. Peroux Williams, also known upon the pre-war concert stage of Berlin; Miss Mabel Garrison and Mr. George Meader, both of the Metropolitan Opera ensemble, the latter having sung with the Stuttgart Opera before and during the war, and Mme. Eleanor Sawyer, who will make guest appearances at the Berlin opera. Another American singer to appear is Mrs. Charles Cahier, who will be one of the soloists in the two concerts of Holland's leading symphony orchestra. The concert will be conducted by Wilhelm Mengelberg, whom New York will claim for the second half of the season.

It is said that the text will be considerably revised before presentation to New York. Its chief attractions to American theatergoers, who are always seeking something new, will lie in the lighting effects and the speed with which the forty-two scenes are shifted. The play celebrated its 25th performance last week. The names of Max Reinhardt, Oscar Straus, of operetta fame, and the incomparable Fritz Massary are associated with a production promised Berlin as a New Year's gift. The piece will be Strauss's latest work, "The Foolish Virgin." Massary, who has been charming Berliners and foreigners as well as Mme. Pompadour in the play of that name, will have the leading role in the new Strauss production. "Ach Josef," Massary's song hit of "Pompadour," is having perhaps the greatest success enjoyed by any piece of popular music in years. Orchestra leaders declare their tips have gone up several hundred per cent, since they introduced the charming little star's song into their programs.

The huge price of 5,000 marks, which translated means \$2,500 or so, will be the price charged for performances in which the greatest of German barytones, Michel Bohnen, will appear. Opera prices have undergone such juggling in an attempt to reach the pocketbook of the foreigner that one must go armed with all one's papers, passports, birth and marriage certificates. In the case of Bohnen's appearance the natives will pay about one-third of the five thousand and foreigners who have lived in the country one year and who can show their tax receipts, identification cards and other credentials at the box office may receive the same consideration.

Bohnen is another recruit to the Metropolitan Opera and goes to New York in January to support Mme. Barak Kemp in creating the American premieres of Max Schilling's opera "Mona Lisa," which will be one of the novelties of the New York musical season.

Mr. and Mrs. Kreisler, who had spent the summer at Carlsbad, other central European resorts and the Lido, started their return trip by motor with Dr. and Mrs. Fleisch of Berlin. After passing through places of interest in Northern Italy, they crossed the Alps into Switzerland and planned to remain in the mountains for a short time. They were then soon became threatening and the keeper of the inn where they planned to stay predicted heavy snow and advised the guests to leave immediately. They did so, but before they had descended beyond the snow line the storm came. With the greatest difficulty they reached safety below. One or two other motor parties were caught on the summit and it is believed they will be unable to descend until the winter ends.

Berlin's musical world of to-day is peopled with artists of as many nations as are represented in the New York census reports. The condition, however, is only normal, for before the war Berlin was sort of an aviation ground, upon which novices from all nations tried their wings, as well as being the goal of every German artist's ambitions. In fact, the field will be left largely to foreigners this year, for unless the visitor be from a richer land than Germany there is little hope of financing concerts. A single performance of the Philharmonic Orchestra now costs 150,000 marks, which places it out of hope for the German who seeks its assistance in presenting a concert.

every third sentence to a premature and abrupt end. One time it was a theatrical director from Berlin, the next time a stage manager from Bucharest and then again a singer. All seek urgent information about contracts and other things, which was given in a hurry and in the unhesitating way of a person accustomed to having his musical comedies running all the time in nearly all important cities of the world.

But this is not the only kind of disturbance an interviewer of Lehar has to face. Although he fixes the hours of his appointments carefully this does not prevent occasional visitors from turning up when least expected.

Parrot Discourages Singer.

Besides, there is a rather talkative parrot, Mr. Lehar's spoiled pet, which does not hold back with his opinion when he wishes to say something. When a poor singer made his appearance and asked the master for assistance for his further studies and Mr. Lehar examined his voice on the spot the trial satisfied neither the composer nor his parrot. While the former hid his feelings and kindly encouraged the man the parrot

burst out in a creaking chuckle of disapproval that would have been rude if the fun of the thing had not been overwhelming. "Did you hear him?" Mr. Lehar asked with a twinkle in his eyes, when the man had gone. "The bird cannot stand bad singing, especially when it comes to high tones."

"You cannot imagine how difficult it is to find the necessary time for finishing my new operetta 'The Yellow Jacket,'" he continued. "It will come out in Vienna next spring at the latest, and possibly earlier if the composer can elude sufficient spare time for applying to it the last touches. The operetta has nothing to do with the English play of the same name, the fact of the two having the same title being merely a coincidence. A quarter billion crowns has already been set apart for the scenery and other equipment, which is a record sum for Austria, although it is little, if compared with the amounts usually spent for the same purpose in America."

Lehar told his operetta, "The Blue Mazur" to Mr. Savage in New York more than a year ago, but owing to several obstacles the work could not yet be put upon the stage. Mr. Savage has an option till January, 1923, which

can be prolonged if the necessity should arise. The future of his works in America occupies Lehar's thoughts a good deal. After his triumphal debut with the "Merry Widow" long before the war the other operettas presented to the American public, "Eva," "The Count of Luxembourg," "Puerstchen" (Le Roi de Montagne) and "Alone at Last," did not get the reception the author had expected.

Orchestra Leaders Blamed.

He thinks that this was due to the alterations made by orchestra leaders who thought it indispensable to Americanize the plays, because they feared the unchanged Austrian style would not appeal to the American public. Mr. Lehar is sure that the changes were made with the best of intention, but he believes they rather spoiled the effect.

In the case of the "Merry Widow," which came out in England before it went to America, Mr. Lehar got the opportunity of having the necessary changes made under his personal direction so that "blunders" could be prevented. This was not so with his later works. He is sure that he could count upon a full success if he could make it possible to go to America and supervise the adaptations personally.

His musical style differs much from the ordinary modern kind of musical comedy, which has the tendency of becoming more or less a spoken play with musical insertions. The Lehar operetta has more resemblance to the opera and accentuates melody and refined instrumentation. It is full of musical invention and subtleties and demands both good acting and excellent singing. Yet, he says, his style found the approval of the Americans who heard his works in Vienna in their original form.

So great is his popularity among American visitors to Austria that, when he was once recognized in a restaurant by one of the Americans present he was surrounded by a group of admirers, for which they deposited six million crowns on behalf of the poor at a time when the crown had ten times the value of to-day. Mr. Lehar is inclined to think that the American public on the other side would take a similar attitude, if it got the chance of hearing his operettas just as they are with perhaps a few small alterations.

Likely to Be Heard Here Soon.

Of course there is always the difficulty of finding the singers who combine the vocal qualifications with the special talents demanded for the operetta. He hopes that Mr. Savage will at last be able to find singers who will make the "Blue Mazur," a success similar to that of the "Merry Widow."

He fact that Mr. Savage has already decided on \$100,000 for staging the "Blue Mazur" and that Mr. Urban in New York has taken the task of designing the decorations, is an indication that America will soon make the acquaintance of this charming stage work. The correspondent used the occasion to ask Mr. Lehar's opinion of the taking of a whole Viennese operetta ensemble to the United States and touring the continent with a set of his operettas, his own way. He does not think that the composer did not think much of the idea, although he himself seemed rather willing to make a trip to America and produce one of several of his works in his own way. He does not think that the composer did not think much of the idea, although he himself seemed rather willing to make a trip to America and produce one of several of his works in his own way.

winter will also witness a Lehar festival in the municipal theater, at which guests from the two operas here will combine their efforts to make the most of Lehar's seven best works in a series of star performances.

Lehar Proud of His Souvenirs.

Mr. Lehar likes to show his visitors some of the innumerable souvenirs filling his apartment and telling an eloquent tale of one of the most brilliant musical careers. Two he cherishes more than all others. One is a bronze plaque from his friend Savage with the inscription: "To Franz Lehar from his friend and admirer Henry W. Savage," and the other is a golden penholder presented to him at Klausenburg in Transylvania, where he produced one of his works there. It contains in a little capsule under glass cover some crumbs of Hungarian earth to remind him that he should never forget his Hungarian fatherland.

Lehar is not a native of Vienna, as most people think. He was born in the little Hungarian town of Komorn, but Vienna claims him as one of her famous sons now, since he has passed the greater part of his life here and received his best musical inspirations from the great Austrian composers. Yet he has not forgotten his Hungarian birth and it is a painful thought to him that these few crumbs of Hungarian earth are the last bit of Transylvania soil that remained Hungarian, as the province had to be ceded to Rumania after the world war and no longer forms a portion of his native country.

AMUSEMENTS.

BLOSSOM TIME
MOVES TO THE CENTURY THEATRE TO-MORROW NIGHT
62nd STREET and CENTRAL PARK WEST. Evenings 8:30; Matinee Wednesday and Saturday at 2:30

500 SEATS AT 50c
500 " " \$1.00
700 " " \$2.00

AMUSEMENTS.

THE PASSING SHOW
OF 1922
Staged by J. C. HUFFMAN
MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRLS IN AMERICA!
WILLIE and EUGENE HOWARD
TONIGHT SUNDAY CONCERT
WILLIE and EUGENE HOWARD
KRAMER and BOYLE
SYLVIA CLARK
JAMES C. MORTON & CO.
EDITH BAKER
PASQUALE BROS.
POOHER SISTERS
THE ATHLETIC GIRL NUMBER
LEONARD and EDDIE
And many other Feature Acts.

AMUSEMENTS.

CENTRAL SHUBERT VAUDEVILLE
THEATRE 47th ST. & 5th AVE.
TWICE DAILY 2:15 & 8:15
TODAY MATINEE LAST 2 TIMES
JOHNNY DOOLEY 10 STAR ACTS and "TOWN TALK" Girl Revue
ONE WEEK ONLY, BEGINNING TOMORROW MATINEE
L. LAWRENCE WEBER and WM. B. FRIEDLANDER Present
"STEPPIN' AROUND"
A Musical Comedy in Nine Scenes with
JAMES C. MORTON
And a Company of Forty, Including a Broadway Beauty Chorus.
And the following SHUBERT VAUDEVILLE ACTS.
DAN HEALY in "ONE NIGHT IN JUNE"
with Marion Hopkins and George B. Tripp
HARRY ROYE with MARGO RAFFARO
MAIDA DUFRESNE BILLY MAYE JOYCE WAYNE
MAMIE EDNA ALFRED MORTON HARRY BLOOM VINTOUR BROTHERS
Mats. 25c to \$1 Except Sat. & Holidays Eve. 50c to \$1.50 Except Sat. Sun and Holidays

AMUSEMENTS.

BROADHURST OPENING Thurs. Night at 8:15
The MESSRS. SHUBERT Present
SPRINGTIME & YOUTH
Founded on book of Bernhardt and Schanser. Lyrics by Matthew C. Woodward a Cyrus Wood Music by Walter Rolfe & Edmund Romberg. Dances by John Harwood
Produced under the Personal Direction of MR. J. J. SHUBERT
GEORGE MacFARLANE OLGA STECK
J. HAROLD MURRAY HARRY KELLY ELEANOR GRIFFITH
HARRY K. MORTON and ZELLA RUSSELL
AND OTHERS
SEATS ON SALE TO-MORROW
49th ST. Theatre West of Broadway
Eve. 8:30 Mat. 2:30 and Sat.
SUPER MYSTERY PLAY
WHISPERING WIRES
HAS THE TOWN TALKING
Eve. 8:30 Mat. 2:30 and Sat.
COMEDY Theatre West of Broadway
Eve. 8:30 Mat. 2:30 and Sat.
THIN ICE
SOLID COMEDY HIT

AMUSEMENTS.

THE TALK OF THE TOWN—AL'S HERE!
"The Old Soak"
By DON MARQUIS
"Gorgeously entertaining."—Times.
PLYMOUTH THEATRE WEST 40TH ST.—Eve. at 8:30. Matinee Thurs. and Sat. 2:30.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE BELLYN'S present CHANNING POLLOCK'S NEW PLAY
THE FOOL
OPENING AT THE TIMES SQ. THEATRE TO-MORROW N-GHT at 8:15. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 2:15.

AMUSEMENTS.

SELWYN
EVE. 8:30. MATS. 2:30
Barney Alexander
BERNARD & CARR
IN PARTNERS AGAIN
WORLD'S LAUGHING HIT!

AMUSEMENTS.

SIX CHARACTERS
IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR
By LUIGI PIранDELLO
PRINCESS SEATS THURS 7:30-11:30-Phone FITZ 0579

AMUSEMENTS.

BAYES Thurs. 7:45. Eve. 8:30. Matinee Wed. & Sat. 2:30.
EAST SIDE—WEST SIDE MAXWELL

AMUSEMENTS.

MOROSCO 45 St. W. of B'way. Eve. 8:30. Mat. 2:30. Wed. 8:30. Thurs. 8:30. Sat. 2:30.
EDWIN MARKHAM
The man with the Hoe.
SAID
OF THE BIGGEST HIT IN TOWN.
WHY MEN LEAVE HOME
Avery Hopwood's Laughing Success
"IT IS A FINE MINGLING OF HUMOR AND SERIOUSNESS. I LIKED IT IMMENSELY."
BELMONT Theatre, 48th St. W. of B'way. Eve. 8:30. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. 2:30.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE THEATRE GUILD HAS WRITTEN ANOTHER FAVORITE PLAY IN THEATRE GUILD'S THEATRICAL CAREER.
THE FAITHFUL HEART
Devised and Staged by John Murray Anderson.
"THE FINEST OF ALL REVUES."
—Charles Darnton, Eve. World
SHUBERT 44th St. W. of B'way. Eve. 8:30. Matinee Wed. and Sat. 2:30.

AMUSEMENTS.

ABIE'S IRISH ROSE
THE LAUGHING SUCCESS
REPUBLIC 42nd St. W. of B'way. Eve. 8:30. Mat. 2:30. Wed. 8:30. Thurs. 8:30. Sat. 2:30.
LAST WEEK
ASTOR THEATRE TWICE DAILY 2:30 & 8:30
MATS. 2:30 & 8:30
THE BEST PICTURE IN NEW YORK—ONLY ONE
REX INGRAM'S M.I.T. & CO.
TRIPLING WOMEN
MATINEE 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-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